

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 186-75  
3 DECEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP87-01608R000300040086-3

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 186-75.4

1.//LEBANON: FRENCH MEDIATOR COUVE DE MURVILLE, WHO COMPLETED PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH LEBANESE LEADERS THIS WEEK, IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO EXPAND THE CABINET WILL LEAD TO REAL PROGRESS IN EASING LEBANON'S TURMOIL. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH US AMBASSADOR GODLEY, COUVE SAID HE THOUGHT A CABINET INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR FACTIONS COULD BE PUT TOGETHER WITHIN THE WEEK, IF THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE HOLDS.//4

//THE FRENCH ENVOY APPARENTLY IS ENCOURAGED BY THE HINTS OF MODERATION RECENTLY SHOWN BY CHRISTIAN PHALANGISTS AND THE MARONITE CLERGY, WHO APPARENTLY ARE NOW RESPONDING TO PRESSURE FROM HIM AND FROM THE VATICAN. THE FRENCH EMISSARY ALSO BELIEVES LEFTIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT MAY BE PREPARED TO BACK AWAY FROM HIS PREVIOUSLY RIGID REFUSAL TO BE REPRESENTED IN A CABINET INCLUDING THE PHALANGES PARTY.//4

THE UNUSUAL SHOW OF UNITY BETWEEN PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH AND PRIME MINISTER KARAMI LAST WEEKEND//—WHICH WAS ENCOURAGED BY COUVE—//WILL MAKE THE TASK OF EXPANDING THE CABINET EASIER. KARAMI

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HAS BEEN TRYING TO BROADEN HIS GOVERNMENT SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER IN JULY, BUT UNTIL NOW HAS NOT HAD THE BACKING OF THE PRESIDENT. AS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, KARAMI IS APPARENTLY HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY WITH HUMBLATT AND OTHER LEFTISTS WHO RIGHTLY PERCEIVE ADVANTAGES FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN AN ENLARGED GOVERNMENT.4

EXPANSION OF THE CABINET WOULD BENEFIT THE CHRISTIANS BY REDUCING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE, IN WHICH LEBANESE LEFTISTS ARE OVER-REPRESENTED. BY MOVING THE FOCUS OF POLITICAL DEBATE FROM THE COMMITTEE TO THE CABINET, THE CHRISTIANS WOULD ALSO HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO DELAY OR INFLUENCE THE TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT ON FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL CHANGES THAT WOULD ERODE THEIR DOMINANT POSITION.4

ON THE OTHER HAND, KARAMI'S ABILITY TO CONTROL AND DIRECT A REFORM PROGRAM WOULD BE IMPROVED IF HE SUCCEEDED IN ECLIPSING THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE WITH A BROAD-BASED CABINET. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXERT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY A FORMER PRIME MINISTER.4

KARAMI APPARENTLY IS MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO PUT

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TOGETHER AN ACCEPTABLE CABINET SLATE; HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH LEFTIST LEADERS MAY DRAG ON WELL BEYOND THIS WEEK, HOWEVER. IN ADDITION, RENEWED TENSIONS IN THE NORTH AROUND TRIPOLI AND ZAGHARTA AND FIGHTING IN THE EASTERN CITY OF ZAHLAH MAY INCREASE THE RELUCTANCE OF THE LEADERS OF WARRING FACTIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. A FLARE-UP IN ZAHLAH TRIGGERED NATION-WIDE FIGHTING LAST AUGUST; ALL ROADS INTO THE CITY REPORTEDLY WERE BLOCKED BY LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES ON TUESDAY IN AN EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE FIGHTING.4

THE PARLIAMENT PASSED AN ARMY CONSCRIPTION BILL ON TUESDAY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE QUICKLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH. LONG ADVOCATED BY THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, THE CONSCRIPTION LAW WILL OVER THE LONG RUN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE THE ARMY'S EFFECTIVENESS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST PRIVATE MILITIAS. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE SECURITY FORCES ARE CARRYING THE BURDEN OF ENFORCING THE TENUOUS CEASE-FIRE. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 386-75.4

//VENEZUELA: THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) OF THE US TRADE ACT HAS PROVOKED SHARP OPPOSITION AND THREATS OF RETALIATION FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS IN VENEZUELA.//4

//PRESIDENT PEREZ BELIEVES THE ACT IS AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT HIS COUNTRY NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS WELL PUBLICIZED EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS THAT WOULD IMPROVE THE TERMS OF TRADE FOR EXPORTERS OF RAW MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES.//4

//ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET REACTED PUBLICLY TO THE LIST, HIS RESPONSE IS EXPECTED TO BE UNRESTRAINED AND HARSH. SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS HAVE ALREADY HINTED THAT VENEZUELA COULD RAISE THIS ISSUE AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF PRODUCER/CONSUMER NATIONS IN MID-DECEMBER. OTHERWISE, THERE IS LITTLE THAT PEREZ CAN DO WITHOUT SERIOUSLY HURTING VENEZUELA'S OIL-BASED ECONOMY. MOREOVER, CARACAS WOULD BE UNWILLING TO JEOPARDIZE ITS LONG-TERM ECONOMIC FUTURE FOR A SHORT-TERM

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SATISFACTION IN DISRUPTING US OIL SUPPLIES. {CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN}//  
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EAST ASIA BRIEF 186-75.4

1. CAMBODIA: PRINCE SIHANOUK IS CURRENTLY IN SOMALIA MIDWAY THROUGH A TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, AND EASTERN EUROPE THAT IS DESIGNED TO HEIGHTEN CAMBODIA'S IMAGE AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE KHMER COMMUNIST VICTORY.4

HIS FIRST OFFICIAL STOP WAS IN BAGHDAD ON NOVEMBER 15. THUS FAR, SIHANOUK AND HIS DELEGATION, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK AND ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UNITED FRONT POLITBURO KEAT CHHON, HAVE ACTED PRIMARILY AS GOODWILL EMISSARIES, AND LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED FROM TALKS WITH OFFICIALS IN BAGHDAD, DAMASCUS, KHARTOUM, AND SANA. THE JOINT STATEMENTS ISSUED AFTER EACH VISIT HAVE FOLLOWED PREDICTABLY THE PRINCE'S UN SPEECH IN EARLY OCTOBER--DENOUNCING ZIONIST "AGGRESSION," EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CLAIMS AND OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. NO NEW AGREE-

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MENTS, SUCH AS TRADE OR AID ARRANGEMENTS, HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, ALTHOUGH THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH THE SUDAN INDICATED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD "EXCHANGED VIEWS" ON TRADE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS AND HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THE CAMBODIANS HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BUSY WITH BANQUETS AND SIGHTSEEING. IN SYRIA, FOR EXAMPLE, SIHANOUK RECEIVED A MEDAL AND TOURED THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE EUPHRATES DAM WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTER. 4

NOT ALL OF SIHANOUK'S HOSTS HAVE VIEWED THE VISIT WITH UNABASHED ENTHUSIASM. THE PRESIDENT OF THE YEMENI ARAB REPUBLIC REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD NO DESIRE TO RECEIVE A "MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY" BUT SAW NO WAY TO AVOID IT WHEN THE PRINCE ACCEPTED A VAGUE INVITATION TO VISIT SANA. SUDANESE OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO PROFESSED RELIEF THAT SIHANOUK DID NOT ATTACK THE US BY NAME IN HIS SPEECHES. 4

ASSUMING THAT THE PRINCE'S CURRENT TRIP IS SATIS-

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FACTORY TO PHNOM PENH, THE KHMER COMMUNISTS MAY USE  
 SIHANOUK'S PUBLIC RELATIONS TALENTS IN THE FUTURE.  
 SIHANOUK TOLD A JOURNALIST IN PEKING BEFORE LEAVING ON HIS  
 TRIP THAT, AFTER RETURNING TO CHINA IN DECEMBER FOR  
 UNSPECIFIED MEDICAL TREATMENT, HE WOULD RETURN TO  
 PHNOM PENH. ALTHOUGH THE PRINCE CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD  
 REMAIN THERE UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL  
 ASSEMBLY, HE COULD MAKE ADDITIONAL TRIPS BEFORE THEN.  
 {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2, IMPDET.H

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 186-75.4

1. USSR: ECONOMIC SPEECHES AT TUESDAY'S SESSION OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PROJECTED AN INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DURING 1976 OF ONLY 4.3 PERCENT, THE LOWEST PLANNED RATE SINCE 1961.4

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTED THAT NIKOLAY BAYBAKOV, CHIEF OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE, ASCRIBED THIS UNUSUALLY LOW FORECAST TO ANTICIPATED SHORTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS RESULTING FROM THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FAILURE AND TO DELAYS IN COMPLETING NEW PRODUCTION FACILITIES. BAYBAKOV FAILED TO PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE SIZE OF THE 1975 HARVEST, WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY OTHER SOVIETS AS "TERRIBLE" AND "DISASTROUS." 4

THE MAGNITUDE OF MOSCOW'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NEXT YEAR IS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS AVERAGED MORE THAN 6 PERCENT FOR THE PERIOD 1971-75. AS IN PREVIOUS DOWNTURNS, IT IS LIKELY THAT CONSUMER GOODS AND SERVICES WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF NEXT YEAR'S REDUCED INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, ALTHOUGH HEAVY INDUSTRY CLEARLY WILL EXPERIENCE CUTBACKS AS WELL.4

BAYBAKOV SAID THE USSR'S NATIONAL INCOME THIS YEAR WILL

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INCREASE BY 4 PERCENT--VERSUS A PLANNED INCREMENT OF 6.5 PERCENT. IN 1976, HOWEVER, BAYBAKOV FORESEES NATIONAL INCOME GROWING BY 5.4 PERCENT, A GOAL THAT IS PROBABLY BASED IN LARGE PART ON HOPES THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL RECOVER FROM THE SHORTFALL IN 1975.4

AVAILABLE EXCERPTS OF BAYBAKOV'S SPEECH PRECLUDE A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS AT THIS TIME. THE ACCOMPANYING REPORT ON THE STATE BUDGET FOR 1976 BY MINISTER OF FINANCE GARBUSOV WAS UNREMARKABLE, ACCORDING TO THE AVAILABLE SELECTIONS. IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT PRACTICE, GARBUSOV GAVE A FIGURE FOR PROJECTED DEFENSE SPENDING--17.4 BILLION RUBLES--THAT IS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FROM THOSE IN RECENT YEARS. THE DOMESTIC RADIO BROADCAST REPORTING ON HIS SPEECH, HOWEVER, FAILED TO INCLUDE A FIGURE FOR THE LARGE AND GROWING "SCIENCE" CATEGORY, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO CONTAIN A SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF THE ACTUAL DEFENSE BUDGET.4

THE ANNOUNCED FIGURE FOR DEFENSE SPENDING HAS LITTLE MEANING IN TERMS OF THE SIZE OF SOVIET DEFENSE PROGRAMS, AND THE TREND OF THE ANNOUNCED SPENDING FIGURE DOES NOT MATCH THE PATH OF OBSERVED SOVIET DEFENSE ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, FROM 1970 TO 1973 THE

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ANNOUNCED FIGURE REMAINED AT 17.9 BILLION RUBLES AND WAS CUT IN BOTH 1974 AND 1975. DURING THIS PERIOD, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR INCREASES IN MILITARY PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS, GROWTH IN MILITARY MANPOWER, AND TWO LARGE RAISES IN MILITARY PAY. PUBLISHED PLANS TO KEEP DEFENSE OUTLAYS AT THE SAME LEVEL THIS YEAR HELP BUTTRESS THE DETENTE IMAGE THE SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROJECT AT HOME AND ABROAD. {CONFIDENTIAL}

2. USSR: THE VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK OF A PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY YASIR ARAFAT APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN LITTLE NEW GROUND.

THE COMMUNIQUE MARKING THE END OF THE VISIT INDICATES THAT ARAFAT GAVE LITTLE MORE THAN LIP-SERVICE TO MOSCOW'S INITIATIVE OF NOVEMBER 9 TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE PALESTINIANS SEEM TO BE LOOKING TO THE UN TO GENERATE MOMENTUM FOR THEIR CAUSE, BUT MOSCOW IS COOL TO PURSUING MIDDLE EAST ISSUES IN A FORUM WHERE ITS INFLUENCE WILL BE DILUTED.

THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY AGAIN PRESSED ARAFAT TO MAKE SOME GESTURE TOWARD AFFIRMING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. THE COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, ONLY SAID A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED

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ON THE BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS AND THE UN CHARTER. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS CAN TAKE THIS AS IMPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE, THE WORDING IS SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS TO LEAVE ARAFAT CONSIDERABLE ROOM FOR MANUEVER. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE ATTACKED THE SECOND EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AND CASTIGATED "CERTAIN QUARTERS" FOR UNDERMINING ARAB UNITY, IT DID NOT CRITICIZE EITHER SADAT OR THE US BY NAME.4

THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO WITHHOLD FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS. AS A RESULT, MOSCOW IS ABLE TO MANEUVER AMONG DIFFERENT FEDAYEEN FACTIONS AND EXERCISE SOME LEVERAGE OVER ARAFAT.4

THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE FEDAYEEN WERE UNDOUBTEDLY DISCUSSED, BUT WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THREE FEDAYEEN LEADERS WITH MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES WENT TO MOSCOW WITH ARAFAT, SUGGESTING THAT THE PALESTINIANS INTENDED TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL ARMS SUPPLIES TO REPLACE WEAPONS GIVEN TO LEBANESE LEFTISTS.4

ARAFAT'S RECEPTION IN MOSCOW WAS SIMILAR TO THAT ACCORDED HIM

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DURING HIS VISIT LAST SPRING. HE HAD NO CONVERSATIONS WITH ANY OFFICIAL HIGHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND PARTY SECRETARY PONOMAREV. LAST SPRING, ARAFAT HAD A BRIEF, CEREMONIAL ENCOUNTER WITH BREZHNEV; THIS TIME HE WAS ACCORDED SOMEWHAT GREATER MEDIA COVERAGE. {CONFIDENTIAL} 4

3. PORTUGAL: THE MILITARY'S DOMINANT POLITICAL ROLE IN PORTUGAL COULD BECOME A SOURCE OF INCREASING FRICTION BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS. 4

THE POPULARLY ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TOOK UP THE ISSUE ON TUESDAY WHEN IT MET FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FAILURE OF THE LEFTIST MILITARY REBELLION LAST WEEK. THE ASSEMBLY MEETING COINCIDED WITH THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE LISBON AREA. 4

MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORMALIZED BEFORE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS LAST SPRING, WHEN THE LEFTIST MILITARY LEADERSHIP DOMINATED BY PRO-COMMUNIST FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES FORCED THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO AGREE TO A CONTINUING ROLE FOR THE MILITARY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE

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TO FIVE YEARS. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE MILITARY HAS THE POWER TO OVERRIDE AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT, IN ADDITION TO HAVING VETO POWER OVER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND THE SELECTION OF KEY CABINET MINISTERS.4

AT THE ASSEMBLY SESSION ON TUESDAY, THE SOCIALIST PARTY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS TO RENEGOTIATE THE PACT. THE PARTY EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO CALL THE AGREEMENT WITH THE MILITARY INTO QUESTION ON ITS OWN.4

THE SOCIALISTS' RELUCTANCE TO CHALLENGE THE MILITARY AT THIS JUNCTURE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THEY HAVE COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ANTUNES FACTION SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE GONCALVES GOVERNMENT AND HOPE TO USE THEIR PRESENT FAVORED POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT AS A SPRINGBOARD TO POWER IN THE GENERAL ELECTION PROMISED FOR NEXT YEAR.4

THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, HOWEVER, HAVE SHOWN NO SUCH RELUCTANCE AND MAY BE EXPECTED TO PRESS THE SOCIALISTS NOW THAT THE LATTER HAVE OPENED THE DOOR. FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO--HEAD OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH ALSO BELONGS TO THE PRESENT

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GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP--ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAS CALLED ON THE MILITARY TO RETURN TO THE BARRACKS, AND, MORE RECENTLY, URGED THE POPULAR ELECTION OF A CIVILIAN SUCCESSOR TO GENERAL COSTA GOMES AS PRESIDENT. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER, A CENTER-RIGHT PARTY THAT IS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT WHICH DOES SIT IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO THROW ITS WEIGHT BEHIND THE PROPOSAL.4

POPULAR SENTIMENT FOR AN END TO MILITARY RULE HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE IN PORTUGAL, AND THERE IS SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MOVE WITHIN THE MILITARY AS WELL. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT MILITARY LEADERS HAVE PROMISED AT VARIOUS TIMES TO RESPECT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION PLANNED FOR NEXT SPRING, THEY HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT THEY INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM POLITICS COMPLETELY. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2, 000000  
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